

QA-103
Fishingham
Centreville vicinity
Private

18th century

The original house at Fishingham is an atypical example of 18th century domestic architecture in Queen Anne's County. Both the asymmetrical fenestration, the nearly square form, and the odd four room plan are features not ordinarily found in this area. The proximity of this house to Upper Deale (QA-87), an earlier house of similar proportions and plan, may be attributed to coincidence, or may suggest an indirect link between the owners or builders of these two houses.

The large brick addition dates to the third quarter of the 19th century, and displays a number of interesting details typical of that period, including a handsome bracketed cornice and carefully laid stretcher bond on the west and south walls.

The outbuildings are also notable. The brick dairy with overhanging pyramidal roof is fairly typical of the mid-19th century, while the meat house is constructed of dovetailed logs with wrought nails in the roof construction. This is one of the few surviving outbuildings in the county constructed with wrought nails and is probably contemporary with the 18th century house. Details of note include the 55 degree roof pitch and brick nogging in the upper gables.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Fishingham

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side of Maryland Route 304

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

XX VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Board of Education of Queen Anne's County Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 5

Folio #: 460

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-103

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fishingham is located on the north side of Maryland Route 304 approximately one mile east of downtown Centreville. The house once formed the center of a large farm that stretched along the south bank of Gravel Run, but the land was purchased by the county Board of Education in 1964, and the Queen Anne's County High School now lies directly adjacent to the house, shielding it from the road. In addition to the original brick house, which dates to the 18th century, there is a large brick wing dating to the third quarter of the 19th century and two outbuildings. These consist of an 18th century log plank meat house and a brick dairy that probably dates to the second quarter of the 19th century.

The original, 18th century house is of brick construction, two-and-one-half stories high, three bays wide, and two rooms deep, with a single chimney at each end of a pitched roof. All three exposed exterior walls have been covered with stucco, and are also protected by late 19th and 20th century porches, partially

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

disguising the age and significance of the building. The overall form as well as certain surviving architectural details are the first indication that this is an early house, and not a late addition to the 19th century section to the north.

The principal facade faces east, away from the main road and the town of Centreville. This facade is asymmetrical, with the entrance offset to the left of center, flanked by six-over-six windows. There are two six-over-six windows on the second floor in the north and south bays, with the center bay left unexpressed. Cellar windows are similarly placed at ground level, partially protected by a late porch. A 20th century shed roof dormer is centered on the roof on this facade.

The south gable is also asymmetrical, with doors in the east and west bay on the first floor, and a pair of six-over-six windows on the second floor. There are no openings in the upper gable. The chimney stack is flush to the gable wall, and is smaller than the corresponding stack on the north gable, which is completely covered by the 19th century addition.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

On the west facade, there are three six-over-six windows symmetrically placed on the first and second floor, and two six-over-six pitched-roof dormers with pilastered jambs.

A box cornice with a deep soffit and a crown mold is carried across both facades, returns at the gable, and is carried up the gable eaves. A complex bed mold is applied to a fascia board below the soffit. This cornice apparently was added in the mid-19th century. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The interior is arranged in an unusual four room plan, with two unequal sized rooms on each facade. The center door in the east facade and the east door on the south gable both lead into a nearly square room that now serves as a dining area as well as an entrance hall. Interior doors lead from this room to a similar sized room in the northeast quadrant of the house, a larger rectangular room in the northwest quadrant, and a small stair hall in the southwest quadrant. The northeast room now serves as a kitchen, but originally had a corner fireplace and probably served as a parlour or a sleeping chamber. The northwest room was undoubtedly a parlour, and still

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

serves in that capacity. The stair in the southwest room is not original, and evidently replaces an earlier stair in the same location. It seems likely that the original stair was an enclosed winder.

The interior trim on the first floor is not original, but dates to the second quarter of the 19th century. The mantel in the northwest parlour is the most significant piece of surviving woodwork. It is Greek Revival in style, with molded pilasters, a plain fascia, and a cove-astragal molding supporting a wide shelf with a Greek ovolo molding edge. The fireplace has been blocked and fitted for a stove, but the original hearth remains. Rabbeted and beaded baseboard remains in all four rooms, otherwise the trim is plain. The paneled interior doors date to the mid-19th century, and several retain early locks and hardware. Name plates remain visible on one lock marked "Improved Lock No. 60", and a second lock marked "Corbin".

The second floor plan is similar to the first floor, but the stairhall in the southwest corner has been partitioned to allow a small storage closet along the west wall.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

The third floor is not partitioned, and is finished with plaster, making the roof structure and eave area inaccessible.

An exterior bulkhead entrance on the west end of the south gable allows access to a full cellar below the original house. The foundation is laid in rough fieldstone below ground level, and triangular chimney bases remain on the center of both gable walls. The north base is the larger of the two, and the west side of this base is larger than the east side, reflecting the larger fireplace in the west room on the first floor. The base on the south gable wall originally had a small fireplace, but this has been bricked up. Framing evidence of a hearth is clearly visible in the ceiling, defining the location of an original fireplace in the southeast room on the first floor.

The cellar is divided into two rooms by a low brick foundation that runs longitudinally from gable wall to gable wall. A heavy hewn sill is laid on the brick foundation, and a wooden screen once divided the cellar in two. Part of this screen remains in place, and wrought H-L hinges remain where two doors allowed access between the rooms. Two cellar windows

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

on each facade wall allowed light into both rooms. The original wood frames remain in place in the north window on each facade. These have been covered by later porches and, as a result, are protected from the weather.

In the third quarter of the 19th century, a large addition was made adjoining the north gable wall of the original house. This addition is actually a self-contained house, with concessions in the plan to make it compatible with the earlier dwelling. The new building is also brick, two stories high and three bays wide with a hip roof. The plan of this section is a side hall-double parlour, with the hall running along the wall that connects the two sections of the house. This allows the hall to serve both the new addition and the original house.

The plan of the new structure differs with the standard side hall plan in one important aspect. The west wall of the newer building is set forward approximately eight feet from the west facade of the original house, and the principal entrance is set in this short section of wall, facing south onto a one story porch that extends across the west facade

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

of the earlier house. Both the west facade and the short exposed section of the south wall are then treated as the primary wall surface, delineated with the use of very fine wire-cut bricks set with narrow joints. An ornate bracketed cornice is also carried across these two walls, but only turns the corner on the north wall, and is otherwise omitted from the north and east facades.

The fenestration on the south and west facades reflects this variation in plan. The entrance door, as noted, is located at the extreme west end of the south wall, and consists of a wide paneled door surrounded by sidelights and a transom. A six-over-six window is located directly above the door on the second floor. On the west facade, there are three six-over-six windows on each floor. They are not quite symmetrical, however, with the south window on each floor set off slightly from the north and center windows, a result of the interior hall partition. The east facade has symmetrical two bay fenestration, with a paneled entrance door in the south bay on the first floor, and large six-over-six windows in the south bay on the first floor and both bays on the second

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.7 DESCRIPTION

floor. On the north facade, there are three six-over-six windows on each floor.

The brickwork on the west and south walls is laid in stretcher bond, but on the north and east walls it is laid in six-course bond. Because the bricks are courser and the joints are wider on the latter two walls, there is a seam in the northwest corner of the north facade where the two types of brickwork meet. All windows have splayed brick jack arches and louvered wood shutters. The cornice, as noted, is quite bold, consisting of a shallow box with a deep soffit and a complex crown mold. The bed mold is applied to a wide fascia board below the soffit. Heavy scrolled brackets are applied below the soffit on the west facade and the exposed portion of the south wall, but are omitted from the north and east walls. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The interior of the 19th century house is arranged in a side hall double parlour plan, with the stair rising along the south wall of the hall, and two doors on each floor leading to the north rooms in the earlier house. The stair has an open-string carriage, with heavy Victorian newel posts, turned

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.8 DESCRIPTION

balusters and a molded rail. The stair ends are decorated with a simple band of flat trim, and the space below the carriage is plastered. Two large rooms open off the north side of the hall on each floor. The first floor rooms evidently served as a front parlour and a smaller rear parlour or study. The mantel in the front room is white marble, while the mantel in the smaller room is a relatively simple wooden surround. Both of these rooms are now used as sleeping chambers, as are the two rooms on the second floor. No evidence remains of either fireplaces or stove flues in the second floor chambers, but both rooms seem too large and airy to have always been unheated. The windows in these rooms reach down almost to the floor, and the ceilings are unusually high.

There is no access to the attic above the second floor.

Meat house: Located to the southeast of the original house is a log plank meat house with a steep, 55 degree pitched roof. The exterior and roof have been covered with tin, and the steep roof is the only

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.9 DESCRIPTION

obvious exterior evidence of the age of the building. It is twelve feet long and eleven feet wide, and is constructed of dovetailed log planks laid on a low brick foundation. A door in the center of the west wall is the only opening.

The log planks are pit sawn from hewn logs, and average 8 to 10 inches by 3 inches, with the spaces chinked with wooden slats and plaster. The front wall to the north of the door has been rebuilt, but the south section of the wall is intact. The door jamb on this side is stabilized by a vertical wooden peg driven down through the entire wall. A similar feature is found on the log plank meat house at Cabin Neck (QA-204), on Kent Island.

The roof is constructed of common rafters secured at the ridge by a pegged mortise-and-tenon joint and supported by heavy hewn top plates. This is an interesting variation from the more common method of using flat false plates laid on top of the ceiling joists. The top plates in this building project slightly beyond the plank side walls, and are secured to the gable top plates and the interior ceiling joists with mortise-and-tenon joints. The rafter pairs were

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.10 DESCRIPTION

reinforced with two sets of collar beams, but most of these have been removed. These were secured to the rafters with pegged half-lap joints. The collar beams remain in place on both gable walls, and are secured with half-lap joints and several nails. These generally include one wrought nail, one machine made nail, and one wire nail, suggesting that only the wrought nails are original, and the other nails were added during subsequent repairs.

The gable construction is quite unusual. Five sets of vertical studs run from the gable top plates up to the gable rafter pairs. The spaces between the studs are filled with brick bedded in mortar or plaster. The bricks are set on edge, with the broad faces exposed, and give a distinct flavor of half-timbering to the upper gable.

Dairy: To the south of the meat house is a brick dairy with a large, overhanging pyramidal roof. The building is ten feet square, while the tin roof overhangs $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet on each side. The undersides of the overhanging roof are plastered, and the rafter ends are mitred and covered with a plain fascia board.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.11 DESCRIPTION

The brickwork is laid in common bond and has been heavily whitewashed. The door is on the center of the west wall; small window openings or vents are centered on all three remaining walls. The window openings are boarded up from the inside, but a four-light casement window remains in place on the east wall. The interior is plastered, the floor is concrete.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The original house at FISHINGHAM is an atypical example of 18th century domestic architecture in Queen Anne's County. Both the asymmetrical fenestration, the nearly square form, and the odd four room plan are features not ordinarily found in this area. The proximity of this house to Upper Deale (QA-87), an earlier house of similar proportions and plan, may be attributed to coincidence, or may suggest an indirect link between the owners or builders of these two houses.

Little original woodwork remains inside, but one Greek Revival mantel has survived, as well as some simple trim dating to the same period. A number of early locks remain, two of which can be identified.

The large addition dates to the third quarter of the 19th century, and displays a number of interesting details typical of that period,

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

including a handsome bracketed cornice and carefully laid stretcher bond brickwork on the west and south walls. The interior offers an unusual variation of the side hall-double parlour plan, adapted to accommodate the earlier section of the house.

The outbuildings are also notable. The brick dairy is fairly typical of the mid-19th century, and is primarily distinctive from a visual point of view. The meat house is one of only a handful of log buildings in the county with wrought nails, suggesting a date of construction in the 18th or very early 19th century. The vertical peg used to stabilize the plank wall next to the door jamb is a detail that was at one time believed to be quite rare, but is now recognized as a relatively widespread feature in the Tidewater region. Of particular interest in this building is the method of construction used in the upper gables. The combination of vertical studs and mortared brick nogging is quite unusual in this particular context, usually being confined to lower walls.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

3/6/79

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

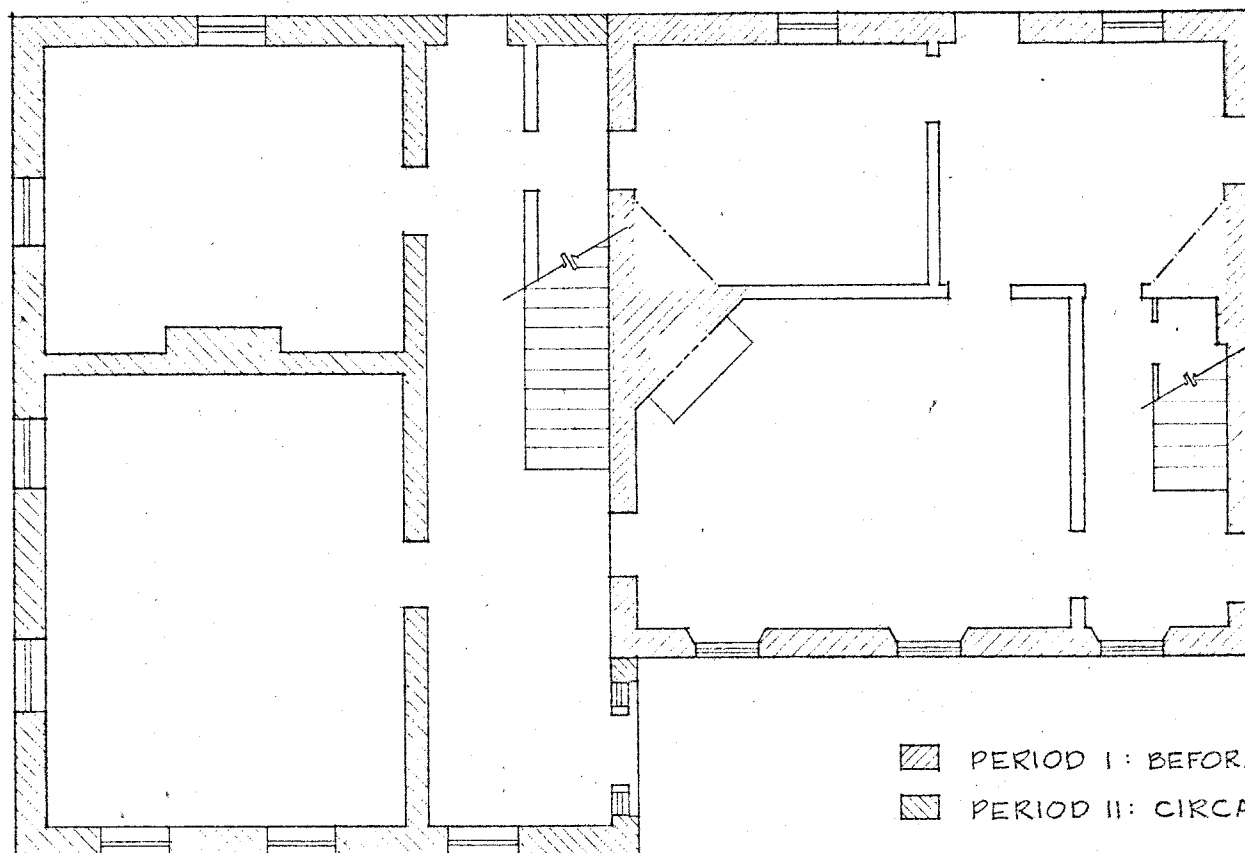
STATE



Maryland 21617

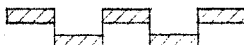
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

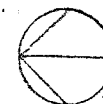
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



 PERIOD I: BEFORE 1798
 PERIOD II: CIRCA 1860's


 0 2 4 6 8 10
 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



ORLANDO RIDOUT V

QA-103

FISHINGHAM
CENTREVILLE, MARYLAND

JUNE 30, 1978





QA-103 Fshingham
Centerville

ORV 1978

(1/270)
Permit

50
J



GA 103

Fishingham

ORU

1/1979

2
f



QA-103

Fishingham

ORV 1979



Fishingham

Meat house (L)

&

Dairy (R)

ORV

6/1978